

Betsy Goeltz

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I am writing to provide comments to the FCC on the E-Rate NPRM, proceeding 13-184. E-Rate has provided critical resources for our school. It has significantly impacted our curriculum and provided essential resources for our school that would otherwise not have been available. Our school serves a population that is 65% free and reduced lunches, indicating the low income status of the families. Our access to resources provided online makes an incredible difference allowing students to go beyond their community. A grant provided us with a video conferencing unit that enables students not only to speak to experts, but also to interact with other students globally. This is critical as we prepare students for a global economy but it is not possible to access this resource without robust and dependable bandwidth. Despite the promise of the use of technology, E-Rate funding levels have not kept pace with Ellis Elementary's bandwidth needs. Teachers have developed engaging lessons that require critical thinking only to find the students being kicked off of the network due to a lack of bandwidth. I urge you to raise the E-Rate funding level to at least \$5 billion per year, which is close to the average demand level for each of the past two years.

As a Principal in Pocatello, Idaho, I know that seamlessly infusing digital learning throughout the curriculum is a prerequisite for students to graduate from high school with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in today's global economy. Access to high-speed broadband is the key to allowing modern teaching and learning to occur in all schools across the country.

At Ellis Elementary School, we use digital learning to personalize learning, deliver professional development, meet Common Core State Standards, administer online assessments and conduct virtual field trips. Digital resources, fueled by access, are a critical component to realizing the a high quality education that will prepare our students for their future.

The E-Rate program has been a phenomenal success in bringing internet access to almost every classroom in America. In the last funding cycle, applications from schools and libraries requested a total of more than \$5 billion—twice the amount of available funding. I respectfully urge the FCC to increase funding for the E-Rate program to at least \$5 billion to meet this demand. All students need access to high-speed broadband. Our nation's future depends on their success.

Sincerely,

Dr. Betsy Goeltz